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Thursday, June 3, 2010

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for Local News in English

Caya G. F. Betico Croes 111 - Tel: 588-9517 - Fax: 588-9518 - E-mail: themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com

Prime Minster Mike Eman advises all to prepare for Storm Season 2010



At left, Jaime Donata, new director of the Disaster office; at right Derek Ian Blok, new director of the Department of Health

Annual Storm Season officially started on Tuesday, June 1, and the time until November 30 is when Caribbean disaster management officials and residents throughout the region must be on the alert, as spring weather conditions and exceptionally high sea surface temperatures are indicating the likelihood of a busy season in 2010.

Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman called a press conference on Tuesday to remind the public of the importance of being prepared. Even though Aruba is considered south of the "Hurricane Belt," huge storms, such as Hurricane Ivan in 2004, came very close to the island, producing heavy seas and torrential rains for long hours and consequentially, serious flooding.

Since then, Aruba has built drainage systems from areas that suffered the worst flooding and damage. An informative booklet has been printed in both English and Papiamentu through the

sponsorship of Elmar NV, and is available free to the public. It gives a history of hurricane activity in the area, which has recorded serious storms approximately once a century since 1605, with two others in 1784 and 1877. Ivan did not nearly compare to the damage done by these "centennial hurricanes."

The booklet explains the best procedures to follow during a significant storm and how to prepare. It outlines creating a "Shelter Box," which is a safe room and how to stock it. It advises to begin preparation well in advance of peak hurricane season, which begins in August and extends through October, not to wait until storm warnings and the stores are filled with panicked shoppers. Batteries, flashlights and lanterns, canned goods, bottled water, a First Aid Kit, a battery operated radio and other supplies that should be on hand are all listed and how to prepare and protect them and your home from serious water damage is all in the

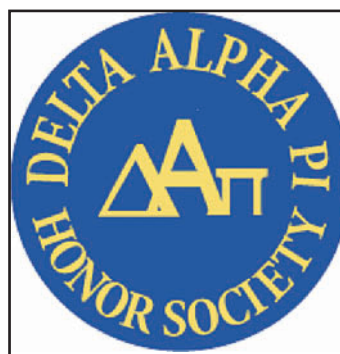
booklet.

Prime Minister Eman also took the opportunity on June 1 to introduce Jaime Donata, the new Director of Aruba's Crisis Management Office, the 'Rampenbestrijding,' upon retirement of its former director, Bibi Arends. This office will coordinate the efforts of police, the fire department, Department of Health, and volunteers from the Red Cross, who collaborate when Aruba is threatened by a major storm.

Present at the meeting was Marck Oduber, MSC, Aruba's head meteorologist, and he acknowledged there are "exceptional sea surface anomalies" in the Caribbean already. Aruba has been bypassed by heavy rains plaguing the rest of the region, but all the elements for major storms are in place. Weather fronts forming in the Southeastern Atlantic anywhere from 9 to 15 degrees in latitude and moving directly west can impact Aruba; the public should follow reports and monitor any such southerly storms and be prepared.

by Rosalie Klein

Aruba born Profesor Tico Croes wins Delta Alpha Pi Award in U.S.A.



Recently, Aruba received the pleasant news that Aruban born Dr. Robertico Croes was honored during the first "Students Are The Star" event, held in the U.S. The news fills Aruba with much pride. Besides celebrating the students' achievement, the night was dedicated to honor the Alpha Xi members who are a chapter of the Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society.

The Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society was founded in 2004 at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania. The three Greek letters stand for Disability, Achievement and Pride.

Members display pride in their academic accomplishments as honor students who happen to have a disability.



Robertico Croes

Delta Alpha Pi members strive to change the negative perception that students with disabilities cannot achieve academic honors. Through public recognition, leadership and visible participation in educational activities, Honor Society members counteract such prejudice.

As part of the preparations, the "UCF Students Disability Services" (SDS) asked all registered students to recommend the professor, who was instrumental in their academic success, to be recognized. Dr. Croes is the 10th professor who received this praise from the students.

Continued on page 3

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"Film Festival Food Fair" Kick Off event at Paseo Herencia

NOORD -- The most anticipated event is finally here "Aruba International Film Festival" is only one day away and it will take place at Paseo Herencia Shopping & Entertainment Center. A-list stars such as Richard Gere and directors will be attending the event tomorrow, June 4th. To start off the excitement today, Paseo Herencia will have a Film Festival Food Fair. Restaurants at Paseo Herencia will have special menus in connection with the Film Festival.

Film Festival menus for the evening:

Taste of Belgium: Hachiko, a Fish Tale - fresh grouper, shrimp and garden vegetable in tomato flavoured fish bouillon. A shrimp tiny - mixed gar-

den green topped with garlic shrimp. Pork loin Venezia style - pork loin with brie and home made honey thyme sauce served with our house salad and French fries. Conversation with fish - Grouper and Mahi-Mahi pan-fried in garlic butter topped with fresh vegetable and lobster sauce served with mashed potato and side salad and Cyrus Delight - a chocolate waffle with vanilla ice and caramel sauce. **Scala:** offers a 3 course menu for \$31,-. **Mr. Jazz:** buy one Mojito and get the second one for free. **Moby Dick's:** receive a free glass of wine with purchase of dinner. **Nobushi:** Tuna Tataki, Jofranni Steak rolls and Alvaro's special rolls for \$14.50 and buy 1 Mojito

get the second one for free. **Haagen Dazs:** offers the Desperado Shake made of pralines and crème for \$5.25. **T.G.I Friday's** have a 5 stars drink menu, \$5,- per drink among others Hollywood Night, Grand Martini, Bloody Mary, Cosmopolitan and Screw-

driver. It's available from 6 p.m.-12 a.m.

Also Paseo Herencia will be launching the new Water Show based on popular movie soundtracks starting 7:30 p.m, 8:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.. Restaurants at Paseo Herencia are open daily for breakfast,

lunch and dinner. Stores are open Monday-Saturday from 10 am-10 pm and on Sunday from 5-10 p.m. For more information regarding Aruba International Film Festival you can visit the Info-point located at Paseo Herencia or go to their website www.aiff.aw

2010 hurricane season seen more active than feared

MIAMI, Florida -- The 2010 Atlantic hurricane season will be even more active than feared, leading U.S. forecasters said yesterday as they predicted 10 hurricanes, five of them major, with a 76 percent likelihood that a major hurricane would hit the U.S. coastline.

The outlook from the Colorado State University team follows predictions by U.S. government scientists for an intense season that could disrupt efforts to contain a huge Gulf of Mexico oil spill and also batter earthquake-ravaged Haiti.

Increasing a previous estimate for a "very active" season, the leading CSU storm research team founded by hurricane forecast pioneer William Gray said the six-month season beginning on June 1 would likely see 18 named tropical storms.

Of these, CSU saw 10 becoming hurricanes, with five becoming major Category 3 or higher hurricanes with winds above 110 miles per hour (177

km per hour).

The CSU scientists increased their forecast from an April 7 prediction of 15 named storms, eight hurricanes and four major hurricanes.

The CSU team saw a 51 percent chance that a major hurricane would make landfall on the U.S. East Coast, including the Florida Peninsula, and a 51 percent chance that one would hit the Gulf Coast, from the Florida Panhandle to Brownsville, Texas.

It put the chance of a major hurricane tracking into the Caribbean at 65 percent.

There are fears too about how a major hurricane sweeping through the Caribbean over Haiti would affect around 1.5 million homeless survivors of the January 12 earthquake who are camping out in the streets under tents and tarpaulins.

Quake survivors living in the makeshift camps are seen as highly vulnerable to the tropical rains, flooding and landslides which have killed thousands of Haitians in the past.



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Cruise Critic member found Aruba couple's camera...in Key West!

On May 16, Cruise Critic member Aquahound, who lives in Florida's Key West, found a camera washed up on the rocks in a local marina. The camera, which was in a waterproof housing of the type used by scuba divers, was undamaged. The latest image on its memory card was dated November 11, 2009, which implied that it had been separated from its owner for more than six months.

Aquahound, a.k.a. Paul Shultz, just happens to be a criminal investigator for the U.S. Coast Guard and couldn't resist the challenge to identify the origins of the mysterious camera.

A combination of his own impressive ingenuity and the power of social media Web sites meant that he was able to locate the camera's owner -- in Aruba.

The plot, as it unravelled, involved undersea relics, hidden clues and even a curious sea turtle.

Shultz told Cruise Critic that he started his investigation by searching for clues in two seemingly unrelated photos: two men in wetsuits stood in front of a van, on which half a

logo was visible; and some children at a school, standing in front of a poster. "I went to a scuba diving Web site called Scubaboard.com and asked for help," Shultz said. "I wanted to know if anyone was aware of a dive company whose name ended in 'stage.com'. We had no luck at first. I also posted a picture of the kids at the school. Someone recognized the writing on the wall as Dutch. I did an Internet translation and found it to say 'The Great Cookbook of Schakel.' Searching the Internet, I found Schakel to be a school on Aruba."

Another clue pointed at Aruba: a diver entering the water in front of a resort-like building that Shultz found via Google Earth to be the Divi Aruba resort. Shultz also established from a picture of a child watching a Continental airplane that the aircraft, identifiable by its registration number, had been on Aruba on November 11.

Meanwhile, a member of scubaboard.com had identified stage.com as wereldstage.com, a company with a presence in Aruba.

Shultz continued: "E-mails

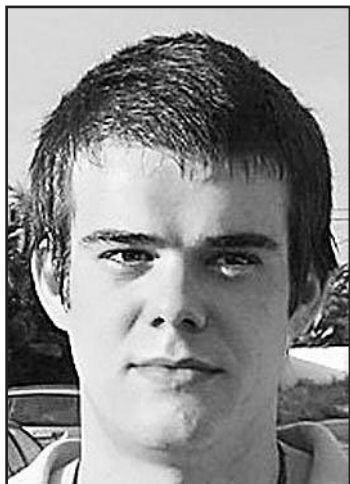
to wereldstage and the Schakel school went unanswered, so I reached out to Cruise Critic. From there, I was led to another website -- Aruba.com -- by Cruise Critic member Arubalisa.

Ironically, though a cruise Web site helped lead Shultz to the camera's owners, they hadn't been visiting Aruba by ship.

"On Aruba.com, I met a woman named Julia. Julia recognized the family from the pictures I sent her. Her kids also go to the Schakel school. Julia met with the camera's owners, Dick and Mandy de Bruin. They confirmed they lost the camera on November 11, 2009 while working on recovering an anchor from a ship sunk during WWII. They were very excited to hear about me finding the camera and they are as amazed as I am about how far it floated."

Equally fascinating is the fact that sometime in January, a curious sea turtle came across the mysterious floating object and knocked it around in the water for a while, switching the camera on in the process. The resulting video, now posted on YouTube, could well make the turtle a star.

Holloway suspect sought in Peru murder



Joran van der Sloot

LIMA, Peru (AP) — A young Dutchman previously arrested in the 2005 disappearance of Alabama teen Natalee Holloway is the prime suspect in a weekend murder of a Peruvian woman, police said yesterday.

Joran van der Sloot is being sought in the Sunday killing of 21-year-old Stephany Flores - the daughter of the industrialist and car runner, Ricardo Flores - in a Lima hotel, Criminal police chief Gen. Cesar Guardia told a news conference. He said the suspect fled the country the next day by land to Chile.

The Dutch government said Interpol has issued an international arrest warrant for Van

der Sloot.

Guardia said the 22-year-old Dutchman, who was in the country for a poker tournament, appears with the young woman in a video taken at a Lima casino early Sunday.

The victim's father, Ricardo Flores, told reporters she was killed about 8 a.m. in a hotel room in the upscale Miraflores neighborhood that was splattered with blood, indicating a struggle.

The killing occurred exactly five years after the May 30, 2005, disappearance of Holloway on Aruba, a Dutch Caribbean island.

Van der Sloot left Peru on Monday, Guardia said, according to immigration registry. He had been staying at the hotel since May 14 and checked out on Sunday four hours after he arrived there with the victim, the police general added.

"We have an interview with a worker at the hotel who says she saw this foreigner with the victim enter his room," said Guardia.

Interpol has issued an international arrest warrant for Van der Sloot, Dutch Foreign Ministry spokesman Bengt van Loosdrecht said in The Netherlands.

He cited as his sources Peruvian police and the Dutch Embassy in Lima. The embassy's head of consular affairs, Angela Lowe, said she could not comment on the case.

An attorney for Van der Sloot in New York City, Joe Tacopina, said he did not know his client's whereabouts and has not been in touch with him since the Peru allegations emerged. He cautioned against a rush to judgment.

Van der Sloot was twice arrested but later released for lack of evidence in the 2005 disappearance of Holloway, who was on a high school graduation trip to the Caribbean island.

No trace of her has been found and van der Sloot remains the main suspect in the case, said Ann Angela, spokeswoman for the Aruba prosecutor's office.

"What's happening now is incredible," she said. "At this moment we don't have anything to do with it, but we are following the case with great interest and if Peruvian authorities would need us, we are here."

Van der Sloot's late father was a prominent judge in Aruba.



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Aruba born Profesor Tico Croes . . .

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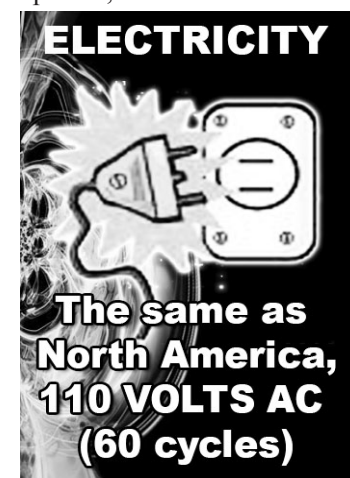
As one nominee said: "I am convinced that Professor Croes deserves this nominee, because he goes out of his way to help students. But the students have to work hard to deserve this, because, in every aspect of life and studies, nothing comes without hard work. Personal achievement as well as good marks goes hand in hand. Professor Croes, thru images and text, opens your eyes to ideas, theories, principles and philosophies that, thru the times, are proven. The human factor is tourism and its counterpart is hospitality, there is no other factor, only the tendencies based on better accumulated information.

Professor Croes improved the way we see global aspects, like a planet, a world and humanity that must go on a mission to achieve tourism based on ecology and client/guest ecological friends who won't let their carbon footprint go on vacation. We must be asleep with our eyes wide open. As a student of Professor Croes, I learned that, and it is logical, a dirty planet is an unhappy house to live in.

Director of Student Disability Services, Mrs. Pam Rea, described the event as a beautiful night, stating: "We appreciate very much that Dr. Croes

and his spouse accompanied us in our SDS celebration, 'Students Are The Stars event.'

Robertico Croes is Associate Professor at the University of Central Florida Rosen School of Hospitality Management. An applied economist and international political scientist, Dr. Croes recently published Anatomy of Demand in International Tourism, a book which deals with the application of demand models and the related policy issues involved for public and private stakeholders in the context of small economies. He received his PhD from the University of Twente, the Netherlands, and his Masters Degree from the University of Southern California. He is fluent in English, Spanish, and Dutch.



MISSION: the first complete nutrition and exercise program



Recently, the first complete nutrition and exercise program, 'Mission,' was introduced. The program is by well-known nutritionist and trainer Rene Wild, together with exercise instructor Carol Alders.

Mission combines exercise and nutrition. Exercising only is not enough to lose weight and keep it off. Besides exercise, Mission offers a nutrition plan that is constantly adapted to the progress of the participants. This way Mission helps participants achieve their goal in a responsible, effective and lasting way.

Many people showed their interest during registration day. Those who registered received

a nutrition plan, they were weighed and their body mass index was measured. The data was registered for further control. Every end of the month each participant's progress will be evaluated to decide if the nutrition plan needs adjustment.

The first session was a complete success. The attendance was so big Mission organizers had to open a second room to accommodate everyone. The participants were very satisfied with the level of intensity of the exercises.

"To lose weight is not easy, but with this training and the nutritional guide, I am sure that I and other participants will lose weight. I have as mission to lose weight and with Mission I am convinced that I will," a participant commented.

Missions' days of training are on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursday from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Centro Deportivo Playa at the Colegio Aruba in the Vondellaan.

Let Mission be your mission.

Photos give an impression of the first session of Mission.

Cozy, comfy and incredibly affordable, The Queen's offers an authentic taste of Aruba!



The Queen's outdoor

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.) Thus, eating out at the authentically Aruban restaurant, The Queen's, is very affordable, with a true taste of regional cuisine.

Owner Varella Innocencia confesses she opened her restaurant in Oranjestad because "I grew up with this, and loved serving people our island food. My father and mother operated the little restaurant across from the Americana, which some may remember, the original Arawak. I remember how much our customers loved trying the local food, and they especially loved the prices!"

Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, which is acknowledged on the menu with "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak.

Two local TV personalities were caught enjoying lunch at The Queen's. They declared, after several visits, they judged the food to be "excellent," and particularly recommended Grandma's secret recipe. We also bumped into island visitors Jim and Callie from Michigan, who were eager to try island food, and were more than pleased with their venture into local cuisine. "We will definitely return to The Queen's," they affirmed, "the food was delicious and the prices are more than right."

The menu sports a variety of steaks and tenderloin, fresh



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef



Keshi Yena with plaintains, vegetables and pica

caught seafood, Caribbean lobster, and of course, one of our favorites, and what we consider a true test of local cuisine, "Keshi Yena"- "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lent that perfect bit of tang to this deli-

ciously picturesque meal.

Located next to the water at the end of the Weststraat, The Queen's is open from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. They also have daily specials, aside from an extensive menu; made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa was in the mood to prepare. While testing out their offerings, we noticed a steady stream of islanders coming for lunch in the pleasant surroundings or picking up take-out containers; always a sure sign of a winner is where the locals like to eat!

This Saturday: "Your heart is in your hand" symposium



The Aruba Heart Foundation has as rule: "the more a person knows and understands his body and its functions, the better that person is equipped to take care of his health thru strategies, like healthy eating and exercising regularly."

With this in mind the foundation is organizing a symposium for patients, nurses, those in medical care, doctors and the general public who need exact and actual information, explaining the different heart problems.

The symposium consists of four primary sections, each one stressing on the importance of prescription drugs and preventive actions that encourages awareness on how to handle heart problems. It also teaches surgery procedure and different conditions that can affect the heart.



It is important to advise that house doctors can get 5.5 points of accreditation when signing the list at the door.

This is an exceptional opportunity to get valuable information, where different medical speakers will discuss topics varying from prevention, illnesses, types of tests and treatment for different heart problems. Minister of Health Richard Visser will inaugurate the symposium.

The different speakers

from Aruba, Holland, and the surrounding region are as follows:

Dr. J. C.J. van Leeuwen, Cardiologist, Cardio Clinic Aruba

Dr. R. Angela, house doctor, Clinica Nicoya

Dr. J. Cheng, Cardiologist, Cardio Clinic Aruba

Dr. A. Hoogendam, Vascular Internist, Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital

Dr. C. Lacle, Cardiologist, Aruba Heart Institute

Dr. A. Liqui Lung, Cardiologist, Taamskliniek Curaçao

Mr. Giovanni Jacobs, Echo technician, Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital

Dr. S. Fingal, Cardiologist, Cardio Clinic Aruba

Dr. R. Michels, Cardiologist Interventional, Catharina Ziekenhuis, The Netherlands

Dr. J. P. Umaña, Cardiothoracic surgeon Fundacion Cardio-Infantil, Bogota, Colombia.

Dr. L.C. Saenz, Electro-physiologist, Fundacion Cardio-Infantil, Bogota, Colombia.

The symposium will take place this Saturday, June 5 at the Crystal Theater and the cost is 35 Aruban florins. The event is from at 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with two coffee breaks and a healthy lunch. Tickets are available at the office of Dr. v. Leeuwen and Dr. Angela and also at all board members. Readers may also call at tel. 582-4278 or e-mail at arubaheartfoundation@setarnet.aw or arubahartstichting@setarnet.aw

The language will be in English but questions can be asked in Papiamentu and a translator will translate for panelist members.

The Aruba Heart Foundation is convinced that improved knowledge, thru information based on risk motivation and detention, can diminish and even stop heart diseases which continues to grow on Aruba. That is why they have as slogan "Your Heart is in your Hand."

Iron Chef ready to serve LeBron



CLEVELAND — One of the Cavaliers' most famous fans is hoping the way to LeBron James' heart is through his stomach.

Cleveland native Michael Symon, one of Food Network's Iron Chefs, has offered to go to James' house once a month and cook a meal for the MVP's family and friends if he re-signs as a free agent with the Cavaliers. Symon posted a letter to James on his Facebook page.

Symon thanked James for all he has done for the city

and urged him to follow his heart when making his decision. Symon also pointed out that some legendary athletes — Magic Johnson, Larry Bird, Jim Brown, Bill Russell and Michael Jordan — created their legacies primarily with one team.

Symon said he knows "firsthand" that James is a "class act" and he hopes James stays in Cleveland "so I can watch you finish what you started which is something not many people get to do."

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Are Moviegoers Tiring of Sequels?

LOS ANGELES - Hollywood still hopes to shake off early symptoms, but there is spreading concern that the summer box office will be plagued by a nasty case of sequelitis.

Conditions are ripe: Studios have planted 11 sequels or franchise reboots in the fertile May-August span, up from nine last summer and seven from the 2008 season. Those that have opened so far have underwhelmed, with seasonal box office off by a double-digit margin and studio executives beginning to feel woozy.

Most recently, Warner Bros.' "Sex and the City 2" was expected to outpace its 2008 predecessor and top the Memorial Day weekend. Instead, it lagged the original's

bow dramatically and debuted with a tarnished bronze medal, trailing even Disney's disappointing "Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time." (A would-be franchise starter, "Persia" will need outside international contributions to reach profitability.)

DreamWorks Animation's "Shrek Forever After" finished first in the frame. But that offered limited relief, as the Paramount-distributed four-quel missed consensus forecasts for its opening by a nauseating \$30 million. Reaction to the latest disappointments came swiftly.

"There very well could be some burnout with moviegoers, who are looking for something new and fresh," a top studio executive lamented Tuesday.

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Science/Tech.

Woman Sues Google over Bad Directions Update: It Was Dark

Search Engine Land, the news and information site that broke the story about how Lauren Rosenberg was struck by a vehicle and is now suing Google, has an update to the story: it was dark outside, and Google maps instructed her to walk across the street.

Search Engine Land's Danny Sullivan spoke with the lead attorney on Rosenberg's case on Tuesday. According to attorney Allen K. Young of Provo, Utah, law firm Young, Kester & Petro, "It was six in the morning. It was not a busy street [then]. She believed there was a sidewalk on the other side."

Apparently, Google Maps directed Rosenberg to cross the street, and she figured it was leading her to a sidewalk. Young says that it was dark outside, and there were no street lights, and Rosenberg had never been in the area before, so she was relying on Google to know where the sidewalks were at. She was, in fact, struck by Patrick Harwood's vehicle when she attempted to cross the street. There was no crosswalk.

Also, according to Young, had Rosenberg not been instructed to cross the street, she could have walked down the road facing traffic on a dirt pedestrian path. This is the reason the case finds Google partly at fault. According to Young, in Utah, a jury can find a party partially responsible--so, theoretically, a jury could find Google partially responsible and Google would then be responsible for that partial amount of the claim.

Young also points out that Rosenberg was hit on January 19, 2010, and that back then Google did not offer warnings about the Google Maps walking directions on its regular or mobile sites. Google PR has shut this possibility down, however, as it told Sullivan in an email:

"We have had warning text since launch - July 08 on desktop, November 08 on mobile. Due to screen real estate, the mobile beta warning is a bit shorter, but it says 'Walking directions (beta): Use caution' and usually shows up with the first step in your directions list."

Okay, fine. So it was dark. There were no street lights. She was lost without her BlackBerry. Google Maps may or may not have shown a warning. Does that make this case any more justified? Not really.

If anything, if it was dark, in the middle of nowhere, and there were no street lights, I feel like she should've seen the car coming. Take a look at the intersection where she was hit trying to cross the road--it's a pretty straight, flat stretch of road. While it's possible that Harwood was whipping around the corner from Aerie drive, it's hard to believe that there isn't quite a bit of "lacking in common sense" going on in this story.

A lot of commenters wondered if Rosenberg had ever learned not to walk on a highway--I wonder if she ever learned to look both ways before crossing the street.

Despite all the bad press, her lawyer still thinks she has a case, "I have told everyone that I think a jury will find some culpability on her part." But Young also believes that a jury will find some fault in the driver who hit her, as well as Google.

Windows, Mac, or Linux: It's Not the OS, It's the User

Who's got the safest operating system? Apple, Google, Microsoft? According to one security expert, what really matters is who's using the OS.

"Microsoft doesn't have a monopoly on all the technical vulnerabilities that are out there," Zulfikar Ramzan, technical director of Symantec Security Response, said Tuesday in a phone interview with PCWorld.

Yahoo faces privacy test with new e-mail features

SAN FRANCISCO - Yahoo Inc. is hoping to turn on a new sharing option in its popular e-mail service without shocking users who prize their privacy.

That's why the Internet company is advising its 280 million e-mail account holders to review their privacy settings along with their incoming messages.

Yahoo posted the privacy reminder this week as it prepares to unveil new features that will share its e-mail users' online activities and interests with people listed in their address books unless they take steps to prevent the information from being broadcast. The new sharing tools will be appearing in people's e-mail accounts this month.

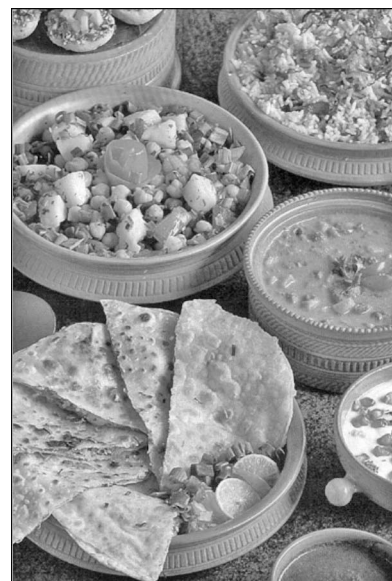
Another addition already available in some accounts allows people to use Yahoo's e-mail service as a platform for posting comments on Facebook, the Web's top spot for swapping information with family and friends. An e-mail link to Twitter's messaging service is coming this summer.

Yahoo has been testing and talking about these changes for months, but it's treading carefully after seeing both Facebook and Google Inc. stumble recently when they retooled their services so more personal information would appear on the Web. Some of those changes irked users, privacy watchdogs and lawmakers. The outcry prompted Facebook and Google to develop simpler privacy settings to give people greater control over what gets shared online.

Yahoo is trying to avoid a similar privacy backlash by providing users the opportunity to opt out of the e-mail service's new social features with the click of a button. The company also is promising not to expose a person's e-mail contacts to the public, a mistake that Google acknowledged making when it set up a social network called Buzz within its own e-mail service four months ago.

Today's online criminals are far more likely to target user behavior rather than a technical flaw in the OS. "It's a lot easier to do that," said Zulfikar. "You don't need as many technical skills to find one person who might be willing, in a moment of weakness, to open up an attachment that contains malicious content."

This trend has been rising



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Secret Ingredient in Ancient Mortar: Sticky Rice



Sticky rice, a staple in many modern Asian dishes, was also the secret ingredient in super-strong mortar used in China some 1,500 years ago, a new study suggests.

The sweet-rice mixture was probably the world's first composite mortar, according to the American Chemical Society.

Mortar, a paste used to bind and fill gaps between bricks, stone blocks and other construction materials, remains the best available material for restoring ancient buildings. Builders used the material to construct important structures like tombs, pagodas and city walls, some of which still exist today.

The super-strong mixture is made by combining sticky rice soup with a standard mortar ingredient called slaked lime, or limestone that has been heated to a high temperature and exposed to water, said study researcher Bingjian Zhang, a professor

at the Department of Chemistry at Zhejiang University in China.

"Analytical study shows that the ancient masonry mortar is a kind of special organic-inorganic composite material," Zhang said. "The inorganic component is calcium carbonate, and the organic

component is amylopectin, which comes from the sticky rice soup added to the mortar."

The secret ingredient that makes the mortar so strong and durable is amylopectin, a type of polysaccharide, or complex carbohydrate, found in rice and other starchy foods, the scientists determined. The mortar's potency is so impressive that it can still be used today as a suitable restoration mortar for ancient masonry.

To determine whether sticky rice can aid in building repair, Zhang and colleagues prepared lime mortars with varying amounts of sticky rice and tested their performance compared with traditional lime mortar.

"The test results of the modeling mortars show that sticky rice-lime mortar has more stable physical properties, has greater mechanical strength, and is more compatible, which make it a suitable restoration mortar for ancient masonry," the researchers write in the American Chemical Society (ACS) monthly journal, Accounts of Chemical Research.

In fact, the mortar works so efficiently as a bonding agent that some of the structures that were built using it remain strong enough to shrug off the effects of modern bulldozers and powerful earthquakes.



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HEALTH & LIVING

PediaCare Children's Drugs Recalled

More children's medicines -- four products sold under the PediaCare brand name -- have been recalled.

All four of the over-the-counter medications were made in Johnson & Johnson's troubled McNeil plant in Pennsylvania. Numerous problems at the plant, including drugs containing incorrect dosages and unsafe manufacturing conditions, led to the April 30 recall of popular child and infant versions of Tylenol, Motrin, Benadryl, and Zyrtec.

The products recalled over the Memorial Day weekend are sold by Blacksmith

Brands. They include:

PediaCare Multi-Symptom Cold 4oz. UPC # 3 0045-0556-05 9

PediaCare Long Acting Cough 4oz. UPC# 3 0045-0465-04 7

PediaCare Decongestant 4oz. UPC# 3 0045-0554-04 8

PediaCare Allergy and Cold 4oz. UPC# 3 0045-0552-04 4

Although no injuries have been reported from use of these products, the manufacturer warns parents to stop using the drugs and to throw away any product they may have purchased.

Tip: Recovering From Back Surgery

If your doctor has recommended surgery as a solution to chronic back pain, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons offers these suggestions to aid in your recovery: * If your incision continues to drain, place a bandage over it. If it's clean and dry, you don't need to bandage it.

* Expect that you may not have a big appetite. But try to eat healthy meals and drink a lot of fluids. Ask your doctor if you need a vitamin or mineral supplement.

* Follow your doctor's suggested exercise program. It will help you get back your stamina and feel stronger. Start out with walking for light exercise; eventually, your doctor may recommend additional activity such as swimming, riding a stationary bike or using a treadmill.

* Lose any excess weight to help prevent future back pain.

Too Much Pregnancy Weight Gain Hurts Child's Heart

Heart Risk at Age 9 Linked to Mother's Pregnancy Weight Gain

Any weight gain during the first 14 weeks of pregnancy - or more than a pound a week between weeks 14 and 36 -- raise the odds your child will show signs of heart disease by age 9.

The findings come from the U.K. Avon study, which is following the health of nearly 14,000 children born from April 1991 through December 1992. The study, by University of Bristol researcher Abigail Fraser, PhD, and colleagues, focuses on more than 8,500 mother/child pairs for whom detailed data were available.

Women who were overweight before becoming pregnant were more likely to have overweight or obese children.

But regardless of a woman's pre-pregnancy weight, weight gain during pregnancy affected the child's weight -- and at age 9, the



child's risk of having high body fat, low levels of good HDL cholesterol, a big waistline, high blood pressure, and other risk factors for heart disease.

Children's heart risk increased with any weight gain during the first 14 weeks of pregnancy, and with any weight gain over 1.1 pounds per week during weeks 14 to 36 of pregnancy. The more weight a woman gained during these times, the higher her child's heart risk.

Weight gain after week 36 of

gestation was not linked to heart risk in a woman's offspring.

What's going on? Fraser and colleagues suggest that the reason why these kids already have a high heart risk by 9 years of age is their fat mass. But exactly why children tend to be fat if their mothers gain too much weight during pregnancy isn't clear.

One thing is clear, comments obstetrician/gynecologist Jennifer Wu, MD, of New York's Lenox Hill Hospital.

"In order to help ensure healthier futures for their children, women considering childbearing should try to achieve ideal body weight pre-pregnancy and to adhere to recommended weight-gain guidelines," Wu says in a statement released by the Lenox Hill press office. Wu was not involved in the Fraser study.

The Fraser study appears in the June 15 issue of *Circulation*, a journal of the American Heart Association.

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Great steaks are a family tradition at El Gaucho Restaurant



Mega Skewer

Aruba's longest established and most popular Argentinean steakhouse, El Gaucho, is still going strong after 33 successful years. Two-time winner of the prestigious Wine Spectator Award of Excellence, the restaurant proudly displays the numerous accolades it has received from other such notable wine and food societies as Chaîne des Rôtisseurs, as well as coveted awards for excellence such as the Worldwide Marketing Organization of Mexico, Golden Trophy for Quality Award of Excellence from France, Arch of Europe for Quality from Business Initiative Directions of Germany and International Award for Tourism, Hotel and Catering Industry from Spain.

Recognized around the world for its quality of service and cuisine, El Gaucho's heartiest applause comes from its loyal clientele, who recommend the restaurant to friends and family with complete confidence in their satisfaction.

When asking a frequent is-

land visitor where they go for a great steak, you will find most frequently their #1 choice will be The Gaucho Steak; a generous portion of prime tenderloin, charcoal-grilled to perfection. El Gaucho Restaurant also boasts the biggest shishkebab in the Caribbean, as well as a varied menu of fresh local fish and seafood, and everyone's favorite cut of steak and ribs.

2009 has brought some welcome changes; an expanded food and wine menu and the restaurant is now open on Sundays. A variety of lamb and veal dishes now garnish the menu, as well as a hearty 20-oz rib eye to satisfy your appetite.

El Gaucho Restaurant is open for lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday from 11:30 a.m. until 11:00 p.m., and on Sunday from 5:30 p.m.. Visit their online guestbook at www.elgaucho-aruba.com, and peruse the glorious praise their receive from their devoted fans, as well as the updated menu.

Most Catholics loyal despite sex abuse scandal

NEW YORK – The sex abuse scandal that has rocked the Catholic Church has not shaken the faith of most U.S. Catholics, according to a new poll.

Only 12 percent, or one out of eight Roman Catholics, is reevaluating ties to the church following reports of child sexual abuse, the 60 Minutes/Vanity Fair survey showed.

The number was similar among members of all faiths in the United States, in contrast to Germany, where about a quarter of German Catholics were considering leaving the church over the abuse allegations.

In recent months, child abuse allegations against Catholic priests have roiled Europe, forcing resignations of bishops in Ireland, Belgium and Germany, in the biggest crisis in Benedict's five-year pontificate.

Pope Benedict met victims of abuse by priests during his April 2008 visit to the United



States. The U.S. church has paid \$2 billion in settlements to victims since 1992.

The poll of 855 adults, including 178 Roman Catholics, also showed that more Americans than before, 45 percent compared to 41 percent in 2009, believed that killings carried out by the CIA are "sometimes justified."

But less than third knew who directed the U.S. military.

When asked what profession came to mind when they heard the name of Robert M. Gates, 36 percent said "com-

puter pioneer," apparently confusing the name of the defense secretary with that of Microsoft founder Bill Gates, one of the world's wealthiest men.

Only 29 percent knew Robert M. Gates was a Cabinet member.

When asked what they would advise their younger self if they could go back in time, 45 percent of people who participated in the poll said, "Take school seriously," followed by "Eat better."

Forty-five percent of Americans said cable TV was the most overpriced item, while 22 percent said a movie ticket, followed by a baseball ticket (17 percent), a pair of jeans (12 percent) and cocktails at a bar or restaurant (9 percent).

On a lighter note, 37 percent of men said they would like to be Indiana Jones in "Raiders of the Lost Ark" for a day, while Carrie Bradshaw, of "Sex and the City" fame drew the highest response at 19 percent of women.

Fidel Castro claims Obama lives in fantasy world

HAVANA, Cuba (AP) – Fidel Castro speculated yesterday that a nuclear strike on Iran might help President Barack Obama win a second term in the White House and also suggested the United States could attack North Korea.

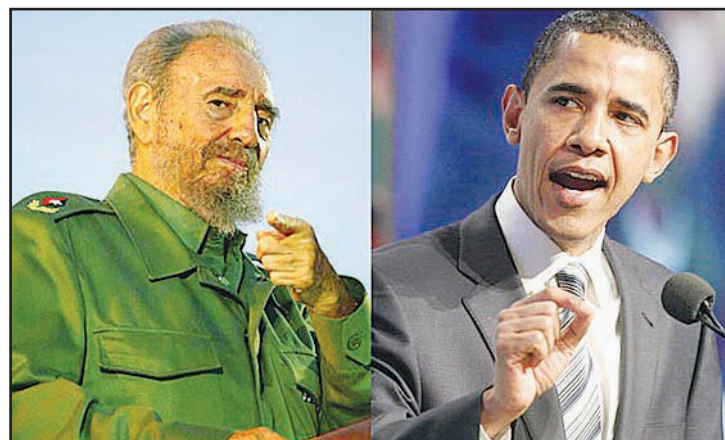
The former leader of Cuba, who has not been seen in public for nearly four years, also portrayed the U.S. president as a victim of fantasies planted in his mind by sinister advisers.

The column published by Cuban state media floated the idea that a nuclear attack on Iran — perhaps even without U.S. authorization — might help Obama win re-election in 2012.

"Could Obama enjoy the emotions of a second presidential election without having the Pentagon or the State of Israel, whose conduct does not in the least obey the decisions of the United States, use nuclear weapons against Iran?" he asked. "How would life on our planet be after that?"

It's a question he did not answer, nor did he elaborate.

Castro also referred to "the current danger North Korea could be attacked by the



United States" because of "the recent incident that happened in that country's waters" — apparently a reference to allegations that North Korea attacked and sank a South Korean warship, killing 46 sailors.

Castro, 83, said China might be able to block such an attack by using its veto in the U.N. Security Council, implying that Washington was likely to seek that body's authorization before a move against North Korea.

The government of North Korea has denied involvement in the torpedo attack near the countries' sea border in March. During a visit to Seoul last month, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the North

should face international consequences for the sinking.

Castro often has praised Obama in recent years, but painted him as a pawn of the global capitalist machine on Wednesday.

"President Obama can give hundreds of speeches, trying to reconcile contradictions that are irreconcilable ... dreaming of the magic of his well-articulated phrases," he wrote.

But Castro said Obama "makes concessions to personalities and groups totally lacking in ethics and draws fantasy worlds that only fit in his head and that unscrupulous advisers, knowing his tendencies, plant in his mind."

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Crews probe Guatemala sinkhole as neighbors flee



Photo released by Guatemala's Presidency, shows the sinkhole covering a street intersection in downtown Guatemala City.

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala (AP) — A cavernous and almost perfectly round sinkhole swallowed an entire intersection in Guatemala City during a tropical storm, spooking people in the neighborhood but exciting geologists.

The hole is 66 feet (20 meters) across and plunges nearly 100 feet (30 meters) deep.

Geologists said Tuesday that the circular shape suggested a cave formation underneath, but what exactly caused the sinkhole was still a mystery.

"I can tell you what it's not: It's not a geological fault, and it's not the product of an earthquake," said David Monteroso, a geophysics engineer at the National Disaster Management Agency. "That's all we know. We're going to have to descend."

The sinkhole formed Saturday and gulped down a cloth-

ing factory about three miles (two kilometers) from the site of a similar sinkhole three years ago.

Neighbors said it was a miracle no factory workers died.

"The boys were lucky," resident Honora Oliva said. "They left at six that afternoon, an hour before the earth opened up."

Neighbors said a weekend security guard also was spared because he had left to tend to his house, which flooded from heavy rain as Tropical Storm Agatha bore down on Central America. The storm has killed at least 180 people.

Some neighbors believe one or two people might have disappeared, but authorities said no deaths had been reported.

Crews were waiting for blueprints of the city's drainage system before investigating further.

The 2007 sinkhole killed three people and swallowed several homes in the same area. It was blamed on rain and an underground sewage flow, but it is too early to say whether those problems are to blame this time, said Monteroso, who also investigated the previous incident.

Police and soldiers stood guard around the sinkhole to prevent the curious from getting too close. Most people living nearby have moved out, fearful the hole will expand and swallow more homes.

"We're not going to wait," said one man who declined to give his name. "We've already rented elsewhere and we're leaving now."

Meanwhile, villagers used hoes and pick axes to hunt for victims of the landslides.

Thousands remained homeless and dozens still missing following the season's first tropical storm. Rescue crews struggled to reach isolated communities to distribute food and water.

"This is a total tragedy," said Jose Vicente Samayoa, president of a neighborhood group in Amatitlan, a flooded town south of Guatemala's capital.

Officials in Guatemala reported 152 dead but said 100 people were still missing. In the department of Chimaltenango — a province west of Guatemala City — landslides buried rural Indian communities and killed at least 60 people.

Russia says terrorists seeking nuclear materials

MOSCOW, Russia — The chief of Russia's state security service said yesterday that terrorists were seeking access to nuclear materials across the former Soviet Union, Russian news agencies reported.

Alexander Bortnikov, the chief of the FSB, the main successor to the Soviet-era KGB, gave no further details about the attempts or which groups had sought the materials.

"We have information which indicates that terrorists are continuing to attempt to get access to nuclear materials (and) biological and chemical components," he was quoted as saying by Interfax and Itar-Tass.

"We are paying constant attention to this issue," Bort-



nikov said, referring to concerns that terrorists could get their hands on nuclear materials.

Nuclear experts say there is no sign that terrorists have acquired weapons-grade nuclear material but there have been at least 18 documented cases of theft or loss of plutonium or highly enriched uranium, sev-

eral in the ex-Soviet Union.

Despite major, heavily U.S.-funded security improvements at Russian facilities containing nuclear materials since the 1991 Soviet collapse, experts say the risk of theft remains.

Among concerns are the potential for theft by insiders -- particularly in a country plagued by corruption -- as well as imperfect accounting for the materials and inexperienced guards, according to Harvard University nuclear expert Matthew Bunn.

A recent report by Bunn commissioned by the U.S.-based Nuclear Threat Initiative said the highest risks of nuclear theft today were in Pakistan and Russia, which has the largest stockpiles.

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Expecting a UK royal wedding? Buy the mugs now



LONDON, England — Rumors have abounded for years that Britain's Prince William will get engaged to his long-term girlfriend but one retailer is now so sure an announcement is imminent it has prepared a range of commemorative mugs.

Royal watchers and bookmakers have long predicted that William, the elder son of heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana, will wed Kate Middleton whom he started dating while at university.

But there have been growing rumors of an engagement announcement this month, fueled by a blog written in April by Diana's friend, journalist Tina Brown in which she said the royal family had earmarked June 3 or 4 for the news.

Supermarket chain Asda is so convinced the announcement is coming it has already created a range of specially designed crockery, ready to go on sale as soon as it becomes official.

"Royal crockery is good British tradition and this will be the biggest announcement from the royal family since the engagement of Charles and Di," said David Mills, Asda's Category Director.

The retailer said it was expecting the same sort of hysteria from the British public that greeted news of Charles's engagement to Diana in 1981.

William began dating Middleton, 28, the daughter of middle-class, self-made entrepreneurs, in 2003 when they

shared a house at Scotland's St Andrews University.

They split up in 2007 because, the newspapers said, Middleton, who has been dubbed "waity Katie," was getting fed up of waiting for William to propose, but they got back together soon afterwards.

William has previously said he did not want to get married until he was 28 or 30. He turns 28 on June 21.

But as speculation mounts, Katie Nicholl, royal correspondent for the Mail on Sunday newspaper, said she did not expect an imminent announcement.

William and his younger brother Harry are due to carry out their first joint overseas tour, to Africa from June 14-19, and they would not want anything to overshadow it, she said.

Nicholl also said William would want to complete his training as a helicopter search-and-rescue pilot for the Royal Air Force which he is due to finish in September.

"There is no hurry to get married. They know as soon as an announcement is made, life for them will never be the same again," said Nicholl, who has just penned a book "William and Harry" on the lives of two princes.

"Their friends tell me they are as good as engaged, it's just they don't want to make anything official."

However bookmakers remain convinced that the couple will get engaged soon.

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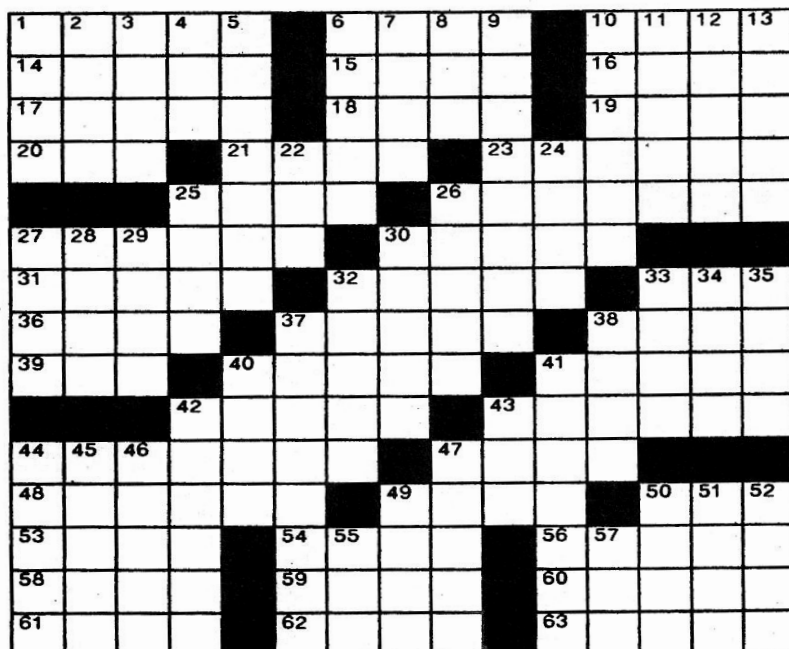
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53. Ready to eat
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1. Winter toy
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11. Animal trainer
12. Ten percenter
13. Leases
22. Speck
24. Inquires
25. Borscht ingredient
26. " — at Sea"
27. Attempt
28. Loyal
29. Orange skin
30. Party pests
32. Sticky fruits
33. Wander
34. Microwave
35. Unsurpassed
37. Petted
38. Privation
40. Yawn
41. Hates
42. Mom or dad
43. Rocker Stewart
44. Threaded nail
45. Onion's relative
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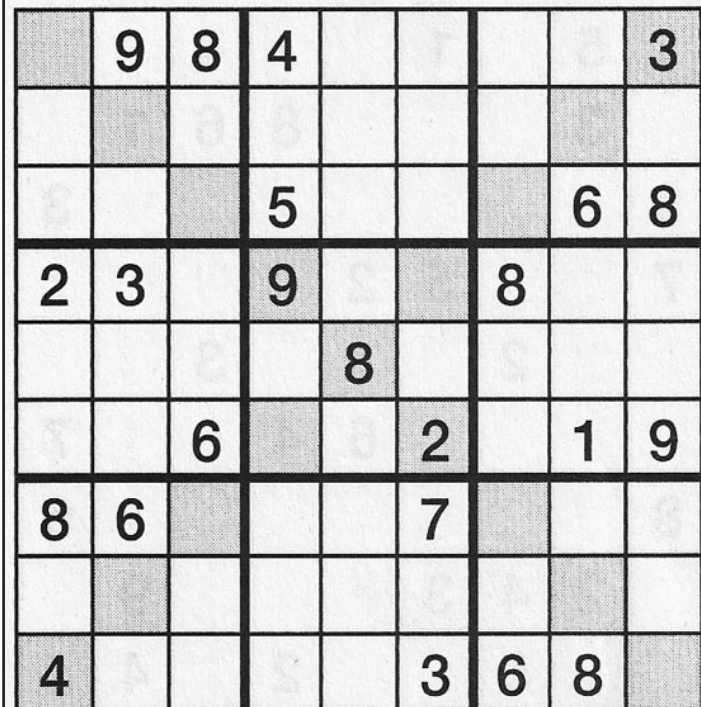
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2	8	7	2	6	1	9	9	8
6	1	8	2	7	2	9	8	9
9	7	2	9	8	8	2	1	6
2	9	8	9	1	6	7	8	2
8	9	1	6	2	9	8	7	2
7	6	2	8	8	9	2	9	1
8	2	9	1	7	4	8	6	9

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Euro steadies, yen dips on Japan PM resignation

SINGAPORE — The euro edged up yesterday after hitting a four-year low against the dollar on jitters over the euro zone's debt crisis, while Asian stocks were broadly steady despite a dip on Wall Street.

The yen weakened broadly after Japan's Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama said he would resign, which fueled investor expectations that political turmoil would make the economy more dependent on the Bank of Japan's loose monetary policy.

The dollar gained just over 0.9 percent to 91.78 yen, its

highest since May 20. The euro was up 0.4 percent to \$1.2253 and gained 1 percent against the yen.

"Japan's political turmoil is a factor for yen selling especially for non-Japanese investors. But once Hatoyama's successor is decided temporary relief will likely prompt investors to buy back the yen to the level it was beforehand," said Jun Kato, senior investment manager at Shinkin Asset Management.

"I expect dollar/yen is likely to move around 90-92 in the coming few weeks."

Auto sales tick higher but caution lingers

DETROIT, Michigan — Major automakers recorded double-digit U.S. sales gains in May from depressed year-earlier levels as industry-wide sales ticked up for a seventh conse-

cutive month with a boost from orders by rental agencies.

The May auto sales results provide one of the earliest snapshots of consumer demand for a month marked by financial market volatility and renewed questions about the strength of the U.S. economic recovery in the second half of the year.

Major automakers said they expected industry-wide sales to be around 11.4 million vehicles on an annualized and adjusted basis in May.

That would be up from the 11 million vehicle sales rate that had held from January through April, and up from the 27-year low of 10.4 million vehicle sales recorded in 2009.

Buffett put on defensive over credit raters

NEW YORK — Billionaire investor Warren Buffett distanced himself from embattled credit rating agencies, saying they have lost some of their investment appeal amid criticism of their role in fueling the financial crisis.

As the star witness at yesterday's hearing of the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, Buffett agreed credit raters erred in failing to foresee the scope of the U.S. housing crisis but said they were not alone in this miscalculation.

"In this particular case, they made a mistake that virtually everybody in the country made," Buffett said. "It was the granddaddy of all bubbles."

The chief executive of Berkshire Hathaway Inc, a major investor in credit rater Moody's Corp, declined to advocate harsh remedies such as the removal of top executives at rating firms.

Buffett said reforms should target financial firms with too much leverage, and punish chief executives and boards that require unusual government aid. The rating agencies

did not take taxpayer bailouts during the crisis.

"I am much more inclined to come down hard on the CEOs of the institutions that caused the United States government to necessarily bolster them than I am on someone who made a mistake that 300 million other Americans made," he said.

Moody's, McGraw-Hill Cos' Standard and Poor's and Fimalac SA's Fitch Ratings have been widely faulted for fueling the crisis by assigning unreasonably high ratings for too long, and then downgrading them too fast.

Congress is weighing legislation that could curb their power to win and retain business.

Berkshire owns 13 percent of Moody's, down from nearly 20 percent a year ago, and Buffett said he would have sold more sooner had he foreseen the housing downturn.

Buffett's hesitancy to offer specifics prompted dismay from panel Vice Chairman Bill Thomas, a former chairman of the House of Representatives

Ways and Means Committee.

Thomas told the 79-year-old, arguably the world's most admired investor, that he should use his influence to promote needed reforms. "You've got to do more," Thomas said.

"Certainly I could have done more," Buffett responded.

Buffett testified alongside Moody's Chief Executive Raymond McDaniel, a lightning rod for criticism of credit raters.

Congress is weighing legislation to curb the agencies' power, and upend their decades-old business model of having issuers pay for ratings and shop around among agencies.

"We believed that ratings were our best opinion at the time that we assigned them," McDaniel testified. "The regret is genuine and deep."

He also said there is an "important public good" served by the current issuer-pays model, saying that ratings are later released publicly for free. McDaniel blamed the financial crisis mainly on weakened housing and tightened credit.

Agencies: Banks' outlook improves but still risky

NEW YORK — U.S. banks are slowly working their way through a mountain of non-performing loans from the credit crisis, but dangers still abound, two credit rating agencies said yesterday.

Among the risks still looming are the impact of the European sovereign debt crisis and the chance the global economy may deteriorate.

Moody's Investors Service said in a first-quarter report it estimates the U.S. banks it rates, have made about 60 percent of the total \$744 billion of aggregate loan charge-offs they will undertake from 2008 to 2011.

The remaining losses, though sizable, are beginning to look manageable, Moody's said.

It warned, however, that "a worsening of the global economy in 2010, the probability of which Moody's places at 10 percent to 20 percent, would significantly strain U.S. bank fundamental credit quality."

That possibility "drives our continuing negative outlook for the U.S. banking sector," Moody's said.

By contrast, Fitch Ratings was more optimistic in its broad assessment of the U.S. banking sector.

Fitch revised up its overall U.S. banking sector outlook to

stable from negative, as bank earnings and capital positions improve and non-performing assets stabilize.

The outlook had been negative since late 2007, when the global financial crisis was starting. In the aftermath of the crisis, which reached its nadir more than a year ago, U.S. bank earnings have been slowly recovering, Fitch analysts said in a first-quarter report.

"With U.S. banks reporting results for the most recent quarter, it is becoming more apparent that financial stability is beginning to emerge across the industry," Fitch wrote.

Fitch expects bank core earnings to continue to show slow but steady improvement over the next few quarters.

"Further supporting Fitch's revised outlook is the stabilization of non-performing assets and the vastly improved capital and liquidity positions of the larger U.S. banks in general," it said.

But U.S. bank earnings and revenue are still comparatively weak relative to pre-crisis levels and will likely remain pressured over the next few quarters, Fitch said.

Moody's also warned of problems on banks' balance sheets.

Although charge-offs and

non-performing loans are past the peak, "the return to 'normal' levels of asset quality will be slow and uneven over the next 12 to 18 months," said Craig Emrick, a senior credit officer with Moody's covering U.S. banks.

Despite two straight quarters of improvement in U.S. bank charge-offs, they remain near historic highs dating back to the Great Depression, while the commercial real estate market could yet decline further, pushing charge-offs up again, Moody's said.

Fitch said its overall stable outlook "does not incorporate exogenous shocks," but the agency "would factor in any such events should they occur."

"Fitch is mindful of risks associated with the ongoing sovereign debt crisis in Europe, as well as the budgetary pressures across many U.S. states and municipalities, which could pose new risks for banks in general," it said.

For those banks that still have a negative outlook, Fitch said it "anticipates resolving these individually over the next few months." That could result in outlooks going to stable or in more limited instances, in a one notch downgrade, with the outlook then going to stable.

YESTERDAY'S
Crossword Answer

PUZZLE 48

S	C	R	A	M	S	H	O	P	S	L	O	W
N	O	I	S	E	L	A	N	E	C	O	R	E
U	P	T	H	E	R	I	V	E	R	C	O	D
G	E	E	T	I	D	E	C	E	A	S	E	D
P	I	P	E	H	E	L	P	E	R	S		
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W	R	I	N	G	C	A	R	V	E	P	A	D
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B	E	E	G	A	I	N	S	D	I	V	A	N
T	O	N	E	S	H	E	R	E	B	Y		
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T	A	U	T	T	A	I	L	O	R	M	A	D
U	N	T	O	E	D	G	E	T	O	T	E	S
P	E	E	P	R	E	S	T	S	W	E	A	T

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Jamaica PM survives confidence vote



Jamaican Prime Minister Bruce Golding has narrowly survived a no-confidence motion in parliament after the opposition urged him to resign because of his alleged support of a suspected drug lord wanted by the United States.

On a 30-28 vote late Tuesday, lawmakers rejected a motion to censure Mr Golding for his handling of a US extradition request for Christopher "Dudus" Coke, the reputed drug kingpin.

Coke, a supporter of the ruling Jamaica Labour Party, has wielded influence over the volatile inner-city constituency that Mr Golding represents. Coke is wanted in New York on charges that he smuggled cocaine and marijuana along with weapons between Jamaica and the United States.

Mr Golding and his political allies opposed the extradition request for nine months before bowing to US pressure to arrest Coke and begin extradition proceedings against him.

Coke remains a fugitive after security forces clashed with his suspected gang member supporters in the capital last week in violence that killed at least 73 civilians.

Most of the bloodshed occurred on May 24th when heavily armed police and sol-

diers stormed the Tivoli Gardens slum that served as a bastion of support for Coke.

Tivoli Gardens is also a stronghold of the Jamaica Labour Party and helped propel Mr Golding, who represents it in parliament, to victory in general elections in September 2007.

Reverend Al Miller says Christopher "Dudus" Coke maintains he is misunderstood by those who failed to see the many initiatives implemented by him in West Kingston to make the crime rate in that police division the lowest.

Miller, who last met with Coke — now a fugitive — two days before the security forces took control of his Tivoli Gardens stronghold, said Coke spoke openly about, among other things, the role he played in helping the elderly and providing a start to many youth who would otherwise have turned to a life of crime.

Tivoli Gardens residents stage a peaceful street protest and march in support of Christopher "Dudus" Coke on May 20, urging the authorities to leave him alone.

Miller said Coke spoke of the perception that the public had of him which caused them to view him differently from who he really is.

The history of Aruba's phosphate mines



Phosphate mining pit on Aruba

In the 19th century another natural product, besides gold, was found to be fit for exploitation. On Seroe Colorado, at the utmost south-easterly tip of the island, guano was found. This limestone, containing phosphoric acid, originates from bird droppings, in this case sea gulls. There was a broad world market for phosphate that was used as a fertilizer.

The discovery of guano is being credited to J. H. Waters Gravenhorst in 1874, but it seems that in 1859 already an American, S. R. Kimball, who was digging guano on the Aves islands, had applied for a permit for exploitation. If it actually has come to that, remains unknown.

In 1871, guano had also been discovered on Klein Curaçao by the Englishman John Godden. His discovery caused quite a hype on de Antillian islands, a kind of 'guano mania.' On Curaçao too, guano was found.

The phosphate was very conspicuous by its color: yellow to red-brown or the color of liver, sometimes green or purple. That's how Seroe Colorado (the Colored Hill) got its name.

After the discovery of guano on Aruba by Gravenhorst, exploitation was started by the Aruba Phosphaat Maatschappij (APM), founded in December of 1879. The center of exportation was San Nicolas, which only consisted of a few fishermen's huts before. The activities surrounding the exploitation and exportation of phosphate led to more and more huts being built there. It already started to look quite like a little village, where sailors from the ships that came for the phosphate came looking for distraction ashore. Local labour was initially only found with difficulty: that was because of the rival branch of industry, the exploitation of gold. That's why forty men were attracted from

Bonaire and about twenty bricklayers and carpenters from Curaçao. Even a group of Italians was attracted to the island to manage the company; four of them never left the island: Antonio and Victorio Petrocci, Eugenio Falconi and Cajetano Jacopucci. They settled at Tanki Leendert.

The exploitation of phosphate led to the development of the settlement of San Nicolas. First a wooden pier was built in the harbor and the phosphate was taken there by donkey. In 1881, new material arrived from England and New York. The installations that were built then were ultramodern for that time. In the San Nicolas bay, an iron landing was built and that was the most modern harbor facility in the whole Caribbean at that time. For the transport of the phosphate to the harbor, a six kilometer long narrow gauge railway was built and the phosphate was taken to the loading berth in trains of about twenty tip carts and a steam locomotive. There it was loaded into sail ships that took it to countries like England, France, Germany and the United States to be processed to super phosphate that was used as fertilizer. The phosphate company had its own tugboat (the 'S.S. Phosphate') and its own pilot to get the ships safely in and out of the San Nicolas bay. The time that was needed to load a ship was being reduced from 15 to 5 days. Three- to five hundred tons of phosphate per day could be handled by the pier. In 1882, about 250 men worked in the phosphate industry and the salaries were not bad. People came from all over the island to work in the phosphate mines; those who lived in the surroundings of Noord, had to get on their way by foot or on a donkey by Sunday afternoon, stayed overnight in Savaneta to start working on Monday. The workers stayed near the phos-

phate mines all week and slept in barracks. On Saturdays, they worked half day, after which they set out to return home on foot or on a donkey.....

Business went well and soon a profit was made which allowed paying off the loans that were made for the investments. A dividend could be paid out as well.

Initially, phosphate was extracted on Seroe Colorado and Seroe Culebra. When the supply at the surface of the hills was exhausted after about fifteen years, they went on to look for phosphate deeper in the ground. On a depth of 15 to 18 meters, phosphate layers, six feet thick on average, were discovered at Banki Jerome, a bit more to the north. Mines were made to bring up the material. Those provided enough phosphate for the next 15 years. Holes were drilled by hand into the phosphate and then it was extracted with explosives.

The exploitation of the phosphate caused the revenues of the island to rise considerably and that made it possible to support the other islands of the colony Curaçao (the Netherlands Antilles did not yet exist) as well. In the years of exploitation (that went on till 1914), 530.060 tons were exported with a total market value of almost 17 million guilders. Aruba could generate about 4 million guilders from exportation taxes.

But in the course of the years, phosphate exploitation became less profitable: as the phosphate had to be extracted from deeper under ground, the quality became poorer. Furthermore, there was strong competition from good quality phosphate from Canada. Good and relatively cheap phosphate came out of Florida as well and as a result, the global prices went down. The APM found out that the expenses to exploit phosphate were too high to be able to still be competitive. Even though the tax rates had been reduced by the government, the profits continued to go down and finally the expenses

When World War I broke out in 1914, the exploitation of phosphate became very difficult. It was impossible to get dynamite and the means of exportation became worse as a result of the war in Europe. The APM closed down in August of 1914 and a year later, the company was dissolved by its shareholders. Workers left again and went looking for work in the surrounding countries like Venezuela and Colombia.



Hondurans held by 10-man Azerbaijan



Honduras still appear to have plenty of work left to do in the final days before the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™ as they were held to a goalless draw by 10-man Azerbaijan in Austria today.

Wayward shooting meant Honduras never really tested Azerbaijan goalkeeper Salah Agayev, even after the 73rd-minute dismissal of

Sasa Yunisoglu for a rash tackle.

Ramon Nunez was the only Honduras player who managed to force a save in the entire match, but his left-footed shot from the edge of the area was easy enough for the goalkeeper.

Honduras will face Chile, Spain and Switzerland in South Africa 2010's Group H.

Poland 0-0 Serbia: White Eagles Fail To Win Again

Poland held World Cup finalists Serbia to a 0-0 draw under trying conditions at the FC Kufstein Stadion in Kufstein, Austria on Wednesday evening. In what was a friendly international, both sides struggled to create too many chances as rain and terrible pitch conditions made it tough for the players to give their best.

Poland were off the blocks the quicker of the two sides as Jakub Blaszczykowski ran down the right and swung in a cross. However, it went over the head of his teammates.

Five minutes later in the 12th minute the Poles were again on song as Mariusz Lewandowski combined with Blaszczykowski on the left and

won a freekick, which however ended wide of the mark.

Poland were the more imposing side in the match but it was Serbia who came close to breaking the deadlock in the 27th minute. Milos Krasic galloped down the right and released Danko Lazovic, whose attempt was superbly blocked by Lukasz Fabianski in the Poland goal.

In the 42nd minute Serbia had a chance to score the opening goal of the evening when Milan Jovanovic whipped in a ball across the Polish goalline but the on-rushing Stankovic failed to connect with the ball.

It finished 0-0 at the break under soggy and dangerous conditions.

Van Bommel fearful of German threat



Mark van Bommel has backed Germany to provide a major threat to his Dutch squad. The Bayern Munich midfielder knows Joachim Low's squad well and believes they will be fine even without injured captain Michael Ballack, using his absence as an extra motivation. "I believe they're thinking, 'Now we'll show the world how we can play without our captain'," he said in AD Sportwereld. "They do not always play beautiful football, but they are always effective."

Paraguay see off Greeks in friendly

Paraguay continued their 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™ preparations with a 2-0 friendly win over fellow qualifiers Greece, the 2004 European champions, in the Swiss town of Winterthur on Wednesday.

Enrique Vera scored the opener after eight minutes and in-form Lucas Barrios added a second goal on 25 minutes to cheer the South Americans, coached by Gerardo Martino.

Paraguay begin their 2010 FIFA World Cup campaign against Italy in Cape Town on 14 June and will also face New Zealand and Slovakia in Group F. Greece were drawn alongside Nigeria, Korea Republic and two-time champions Argentina in Group B.

Barrios shone in the German Bundesliga this season

with Borussia Dortmund and was drafted into the Paraguay squad to cover for the absence of fellow striker Salvador Cabanas, who will miss the tournament after being shot in the head last year in a bar in Mexico.

Barrios was born in Argentina but obtained his Paraguayan nationality through his mother and he has scored in his last three outings in the national colours. Paraguay gave Brazil a run for their money for top spot in the South American qualifying programme and will hope to reach the second phase in South Africa, despite facing the toughest imaginable start against holders Italians.

Paraguay have shown mixed warm-up form, as they saw off North Korea as well

as Greece but drew with the Ivorians and lost 2-1 to the Republic of Ireland. Otto Rehhagel, meanwhile, has work to do as he tries to conjure more surprises after his stellar achievement of leading the Greeks to the European crown six years ago.

Central American qualifiers Honduras, who face Spain, Switzerland and Chile in Group H, recorded a goalless draw with Azerbaijan in a friendly game in Austria on Wednesday.

Whoever Beats Spain Will Win The World Cup - France Legend Zinedine Zidane

France legend Zinedine Zidane commented on his World Cup experience four years ago, particularly the expulsion he earned with a headbutt on Italy defender Marco Materazzi.

"No one knows what the six months afterwards felt like and if I was living the moment again today, obviously I would not do this again. Zidane went on to state that whoever beats Spain in this summer's South African World Cup "will go on to win the World Cup."

He believes that La Furia Roja are the strongest national team on the world stage and that Spain's style of play suits their attempts to go far into the competition.

Group A
South Africa
Mexico
Uruguay
France

Group B
Argentina
Nigeria
Korea Republic
Greece

Group C
England
USA
Algeria
Slovenia

Group D
Germany
Australia
Serbia
Ghana

Group E
Netherlands
Denmark
Japan
Cameroon

Group F
Italy
Paraguay
New Zealand
Slovakia

Group G
Brazil
Korea DPR
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Group H
Spain
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AT RENAISSANCE - ORANJESTAD

R **SEX AND THE CITY**
NEW daily: 5:45 8:30
 matinee: 12:00 2:45 late show: 11:30

PG-13 **PRINCE OF PERSIA**
NEW daily: 5:30 8:00
 matinee: 12:30 3:00 late show: 11:00

PG **SHREK FOREVER AFTER 3D**
 daily: 4:00 6:15 8:30
 matinee: 1:30 late show: 11:15

PG-13 **DEATH AT A FUNERAL**
 daily: 4:45 7:00 9:15
 matinee: 12:15 2:30 late show: 11:30

PG **STREET DANCE 3D**
 daily: 4:15 6:30 8:45
 matinee: 2:00 late show: 11:00

PG-13 **IRON MAN 2**
 daily: 6:15 9:00
 matinee: 12:45 3:30 late show: 11:45

AT PASEO HERENCIA

R **SEX AND THE CITY**
NEW daily: 5:45 8:30
 matinee: 12:00 2:45 late show: 11:30

PG **JUST WRIGHT**
 daily: 4:15 6:45 9:15
 matinee: 1:45 late show: 11:30

PG-13 **ROBIN HOOD**
 daily: 4:30 7:45
 matinee: 1:00 late show: 11:00

PG-13 **SHREK FOREVER AFTER 3D**
 daily: 4:00 6:30 8:45
 matinee: 1:15 late show: 11:15

PG **LETTERS TO JULIET**
 daily: 4:30 7:00 9:30
 matinee: 1:30 late show: 12:00

PG-13 **IRON MAN 2**
 daily: 6:00 9:00
 matinee: 12:15 3:00 late show: 11:45

SEX AND THE CITY (COM/DRAMA): THE FUN, THE FASHION, THE FRIENDSHIP: "SEX AND THE CITY 2" BRINGS IT ALL BACK AND MORE AS CARRIE, SAMANTHA, CHARLOTTE AND MIRANDA TAKE ANOTHER BITE OUT OF THE BIG APPLE--AND BEYOND--CARRYING ON WITH THEIR BUSY LIVES AND LOVES. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU SAY "I DO"? LIFE IS EVERYTHING THE LADIES EVER WISHED IT TO BE, BUT IT WOULDN'T BE "SEX AND THE CITY" IF LIFE DIDN'T HOLD A FEW MORE SURPRISES--THIS TIME IN THE FORM OF A GLAMOROUS, SUN-DRENCHED ADVENTURE THAT WHISKS THE WOMEN AWAY FROM NEW YORK TO ONE OF THE MOST LUXURIOUS, EXOTIC AND VIVID PLACES ON EARTH.



Lakers-Celtics to make history, meet for 12th time

LOS ANGELES — Phil Jackson knows the story by heart, even if his players only seem interested in the last two chapters.

Their coach is steeped in the history of pro basketball's most compelling rivalry, familiar with every twist in the Boston Celtics' half-century of championship clashes with the Los Angeles Lakers. The NBA's most decorated franchises have battled through heartbreaks, high stakes and neck-aches while forging a true pro sports rivalry, that rarest of commodities in the age of free agency.

Jackson doesn't mind that almost everybody playing in the franchises' 12th NBA finals meeting, starting tonight at Staples Center, doesn't have much of a grasp on the history sewn into the uniforms they wear.

So what if Ron Artest claims total ignorance of the Lakers' past, while Kobe Bryant says he couldn't care less who Los Angeles played? So what if the deep-seated hatred between the franchises' fans doesn't seem to be truly savored by nearly anybody except Paul Pierce, the Los Angeles native turned Celtics star?

"That rivalry is renewed ... it seems like every 20 years, and now here it is," Jackson said. "This is our second time going back at them. It's one that I think piques the interest of the fans of basketball."

Notice he didn't mention the players' interest. In the age of easy team-swapping, \$100 million contracts and offseason Vegas partying with bitter in-season opponents, there's not much actual malice to be found between these Lakers and these Celtics.

"It's not a personal thing," Celtics forward Kevin Garnett said before the Celtics

practiced at UCLA's Pauley Pavilion on Tuesday. "They're a great team, we're a great team. We're both trying to get to the same goal."

The clubs are meeting in the finals for the second time in three seasons, and the winner will walk away with the franchises' 33rd combined championship. That's more than half of the titles in NBA history.

Yet this 21st-century confluence of Boston's Big Three era and Bryant's career zenith still hasn't reached the frequency and ferocity of the rivalry's early years. They met seven times in 11 seasons from 1959-69 — and the Celtics won every time, led by Bill Russell, coach Red Auerbach and whatever leprechaun pushed Frank Selvy's late jumper off the rim in Game 7 of the 1962 finals, allowing Boston to win in overtime.

"It seems like most of the '60s, the Lakers were playing the Celtics, and they were never able to get by them," Jackson said. "That was a long and arduous period of time for these fans."

Pierce grew up in Inglewood near the Lakers' former neighborhood, and he heard the story about the balloons. He knows the Lakers were favorites against the Celtics in 1968 and again in 1969, but Boston twice rallied to beat Elgin Baylor, Jerry West and Wilt Chamberlain, forlornly stranding thousands of celebratory balloons in the rafters of the Forum.

"We've definitely got two franchises that never really liked each other because they were always playing for the ultimate prize," said Pierce, the 2008 NBA finals MVP. "You can definitely sense that, and I already knew that growing up here."

Bryant, burrowed deep

into his playoff tunnel, professes not to care about the rivalry, even when a victory might fulfill West's prediction that Kobe will go down as the greatest player to wear the Lakers' uniform.

"I'm playing in it. I don't give a damn about it," Bryant said. "That's for other people to get excited about. I get excited about winning."

Yet it's tough to believe Bryant: He also has said his NBA education during his youth in Italy largely consisted of watching Lakers-Celtics games, when Magic Johnson and Larry Bird clashed three times in four seasons.

Other Lakers aren't excited about playing the Boston franchise so much as they're thrilled for a chance at revenge on these particular Celtics, most of whom sent the Lakers home from the finals in 2008.

These Lakers don't remember Game 4 of the 1984 series, when Kevin McHale clotheslined Kurt Rambis before Cedric Maxwell mimed a choking motion at James Worthy during a key game in perhaps the most fascinating finals in NBA history, an era-defining showcase of the Magic-Bird rivalry.

No, they remember June 2008, when celebrating Celtics fans punctuated their team's 39-point victory in the clincher by throwing rocks at Los Angeles' bus.

Leave it to Pau Gasol, the Lakers' cultured Spanish forward in his third straight NBA finals, to find a common ground between the importance of this franchise's history and the immediacy of winning one last playoff series in an eight-month grind of a modern season.

"The history just makes it a little more exciting than it already is," Gasol said. "It's a matchup that a lot of people want to see. The history is exciting, and there's a lot of — you could say hate — between the teams, crowds and fans and stuff, but we try to be above that a little bit, and try not to let that affect our minds."

"Obviously it's motivating, but you still want to win the Finals and championship no matter who it's against. But obviously it will taste better, to be honest, than what we went through in 2008."

NBA FINALS

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THURSDAY, JUNE 10: LOS ANGELES AT BOSTON, 9 P.M.

X-SUNDAY, JUNE 13: LOS ANGELES AT BOSTON, 8 P.M.

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Williams exits French Open with loss to Stosur

PARIS — Serena Williams is usually the one who saves match points, not wastes them.

Who seizes control of an exchange, not cedes it.

Who turns up her game at Grand Slam time.

Except at the French Open, the lone major tournament she's won only once and where she's now gone seven years without even reaching the semifinals.

The No. 1-ranked Williams dropped 17 consecutive points during one stretch, climbed all the way back to within a point of victory, then faded late and lost to No. 7 Samantha Stosur of Australia 6-2, 6-7 (2), 8-6 on Wednesday in the Roland Garros quarterfinals.

"Had I played better for two minutes, maybe the result could have been different. But it didn't work out," said Williams, who missed a forehand by an inch or so when she held a match point at 5-4 in the final set. "Just wasn't playing well today. Last year, I choked. I guess it's a redundant story with me."

The upset was Stosur's second in a row — she eliminated four-time champion Justine Henin in the fourth round — and came a day after men's No. 1 and defending champion Roger Federer was stunned by Robin Soderling.

"It's not over yet," said Stosur, a tour-best 19-2 on clay this season and a 2009 French Open semifinalist. "I want to definitely try and keep going."

In keeping with the run of surprises at this wide-open French Open, No. 22 Jurgen Melzer of Austria came back to beat No. 3 Novak Djokovic 3-6, 2-6, 6-2, 7-6 (3), 6-4 in the last men's quarterfinal. Melzer, at 29 the oldest man left, never before won a match after losing the first two sets — and never made it beyond the third round at any Grand Slam tournament in 31 previous tries.

His reward? A semifinal Friday against four-time champion Rafael Nadal, who eliminated No. 19 Nicolas Almagro 7-6 (2), 7-6 (3), 6-4. Nadal, who lost to Soderling



Serena Williams looks dejected after losing to Stosur

in last year's fourth round, extended his current winning streak on clay to 20 matches.

In one women's semifinal Thursday, Stosur will play No. 4 Jelena Jankovic, who got past unseeded Yaroslava Shvedova of Kazakhstan 7-5, 6-4. No. 5 Elena Dementieva will face No. 17 Francesca Schiavone in the other.

For the first time at any Grand Slam tournament since the 1979 Australian Open, none of the four female semifinalists owns a major title. Williams has 12, with five at the Australian Open — including this year — and three apiece at the U.S. Open and Wimbledon. The one at the French Open came in 2002, and she was a semifinalist in Paris the following year, but

not since.

"Maybe she was trying to get over that hump," said Williams' mother, Oracene Price. "That might have been on her mind."

Williams never hid her frustrations against Stosur, who wore her usual white baseball cap and red-rimmed wraparound shades as the sun

finally returned after several days of clouds and rain.

Williams admonished herself aloud, sometimes muttering, sometimes screaming. She shook her head and put a hand on her hip. She crouched and rolled her eyes.

Her own serve was a friend — accumulating 13 aces — and a foe — yielding nine double-faults. The rest of Williams' strokes were a mixed bag, too: She finished with more winners than Stosur, 39-30, and nearly twice as many unforced errors, 46-24.

"I definitely was nowhere near my best today," Williams said, then added: "But she played really well."

About an hour after that loss, Williams went back on court to team with her older sister Venus and reach the women's doubles final by beating Liezel Huber and Anabel Medina Garrigues 2-6, 6-2, 6-4. That victory means Serena Williams will top the WTA rankings in singles and doubles as of next week.

The younger Williams isn't accustomed to getting pushed around on a court, but that's exactly what Stosur managed to do, commanding points with deep groundstrokes lathered with spin.

"I didn't want to let her try and dictate the points early on, so I tried to do that straight back to her," said Stosur, who recently switched to the same sort of synthetic racket strings Nadal uses. "You can't give her much."

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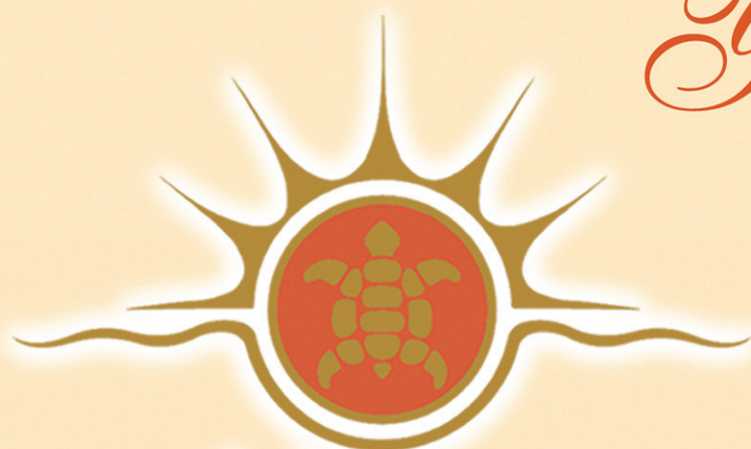
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U.N. rights body sets probe into flotilla raid



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GENEVA, Switzerland - The United Nations Human Rights Council yesterday voted to set up an independent fact-finding mission to look into what it called violations of international law in Israel's raid on a Gaza aid flotilla.

In a resolution proposed by Pakistan for the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and Sudan for the Arab group, the Council by a vote of 32 of its 47 members also condemned the Israeli action as outrageous.

The United States, Israel's longtime ally, together with Italy and the Netherlands voted against, while nine European, African and Asian nations abstained and 3 more African countries did not vote.

The resolution called "for full accountability and credible independent inquiries into these (Israeli) attacks" in which Israel says nine people on boats in the flotilla died.

The Council decided to dispatch an independent, international fact-finding mission to investigate violations of international law in the attack, it said.

The team would be appointed by the Council president and Belgian diplomat Alex Van Meeuwen -- whose

own country along with four other European Union members abstained in the voting.

Israel says nine people were killed when they resisted commandos who boarded the ships of the flotilla to stop it reaching Gaza. It began releasing the 682 pro-Palestinian activists it arrested on the vessels earlier yesterday.

It was not immediately clear when the rights council mission would be set up or who might be on it. Diplomats said it was unlikely that Israel, which has announced its own probe, would agree to cooperate with it.

The rights council, set up in 2006, is effectively controlled by developing countries among whom the OIC has strong influence, and regularly condemns Israel.

The text of the flotilla resolution differed from a statement from the U.N. Security Council in New York on Tuesday which called for a "prompt, impartial, credible and transparent investigation conforming to international standards."

The difference, diplomats said, reflected the fact that while the United States with its veto power could have a determining influence on a Security

Council text it could exert no such power in the Geneva rights body.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said on Tuesday that Washington supported an Israeli investigation but was open to different ways of ensuring that it was credible.

In the rights body, Russia and China as well several African and Latin American states backed the resolution, but France, Belgium, Britain, Hungary, Japan, Slovakia, Ukraine and south Korea -- together with Burkina Faso -- abstained.

In a statement to the Council, U.S. ambassador Eileen Donahue said: "Unfortunately the resolution before us rushes to judgment on a set of facts that... are only beginning to be discovered and understood."

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